

apricot



The 4th Generation Executive Computer

4th Generation Personal Computers

by Roger Foster FCA

Founder and Group Managing Director of ACT

Each generation of personal computers has brought major advances in hardware technology: from the early 8-bit 2nd generation machines to today's 3rd generation 16-bit systems, memory, mass storage and performance have all increased dramatically.

The 4th generation, led by ACT's Apricot, brings equally dramatic developments but most significantly, a major shift in design philosophy.

The 4th generation personal computer provides a single environment, complete and ready to work, to

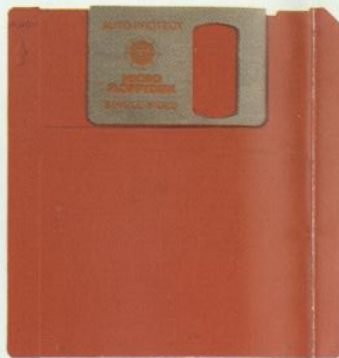
improve the productivity and efficiency of executives and professionals.

4th generation computers will feature a MicroScreen on the keyboard as a means of assisting the executive user, also acting as a clock, calendar and calculator. A 'mouse', a simple pointing device, will reduce the need to use the keyboard. Increased memory and a powerful multiprocessor architecture will ensure that friendly, easy-to-use software will run quickly and efficiently.

The new software will allow the user to perform a number of

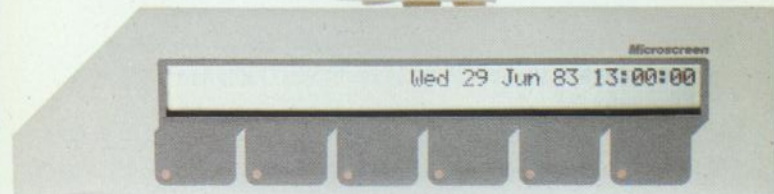
tasks concurrently, integrating several applications in a single package.

4th generation machines will use 3.5" disk technology. Space saving and compact, yet offering greater storage capacity.



A machine that has all these features has now been created by ACT.

The first
4th generation
personal
computer is
here now.
apricot





Apricot's multi-processor architecture

Unlike earlier generation personal computers the Apricot packs all its performance on a single sophisticated circuit board.

The compact single board approach offers the executive user two significant advantages. Firstly, it ensures that the computer takes up less room on the desk and makes it easily portable. Secondly, it is inherently more reliable.

Just compare these features:

1. RS232 serial port.
2. 256 Kbytes RAM as standard.
3. Standard parallel port.
4. Expansion slots.
5. 16-bit Multi-Processor Architecture. An Intel 8086 cpu and the optimised Intel 8089 input/output processor to handle disk drives and communications. And as an option, the powerful Intel 8087 mathematics processor.
6. I/O for one or two Sony Micro Drives.

Multi-function keyboard

The Apricot keyboard incorporates every feature the executive needs to make productive use of his system.

Pride of place goes to the MicroScreen – a unique two line Liquid Crystal Display and its six touch-sensitive keys.

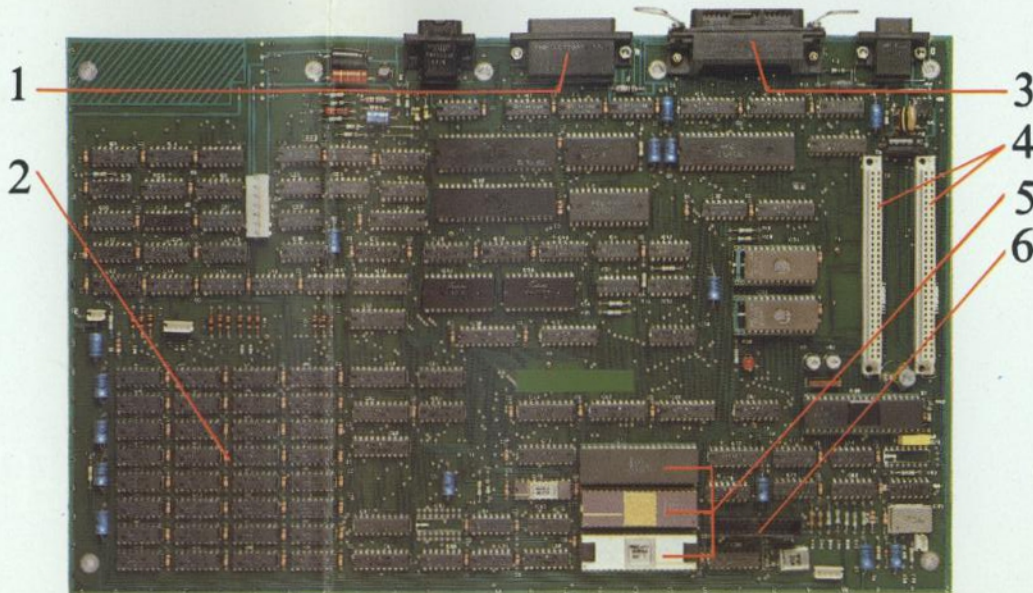
This device ensures that Apricot is easy to use.

- It displays the day, date and time.
- It becomes a powerful calculator.
- It labels the six touch-sensitive keys with functions unique to the program currently being run.

- It provides an alternative entry line for information.
- It acts as a window on the screen, enabling the system to be used without a monitor.

The keyboard itself has 90 keys including eight fixed function keys corresponding to the most regularly used activities.

There is a full suite of text editing keys, and a numeric keypad for standard calculator key instructions.



Apricot – a superb software environment

Apricot has been designed to provide a first-class software environment at several levels.

BIOS Level

A 48 Kbyte disk cache offers significant speed improvements for commercial applications involving frequent disk accessing. The BIOS implements its own print spooler, has an automatic buffer for high speed communications, networking, and incorporates powerful BIOS for easy graphics generation.

Operating Systems Level

Three operating systems are included as standard – MS-DOS 2.0, CP/M-86 and Concurrent CP/M. Additional operating systems such as the UCSD pSystem, are also available.

Language Level

Both Microsoft BASIC and Personal BASIC from Digital Research are in-

cluded, and all the leading compiled languages are available.

Development Level

There is a full range of tools and utilities for software creation, i.e. Graphics Kernel, font generators, MicroScreen driver, etc.

Applications Level

Over 1,000 existing packages are designed to run on Apricot. The Apricot is Sirius-compatible and IBM-compatible to ensure instant availability of quality software.

Communications Level

A high-speed asynchronous communications package is provided with Apricot.

And converting software to Apricot's revolutionary 3.5" disks is quick and easy thanks to a simple transfer utility.

The user can select

Apricot confident that applications software will be available off the shelf.



ACT – the force behind Apricot

Apricot has an impeccable pedigree

It is the direct result of almost 20 years experience in the application of computer technology to business. And it is yet another breakthrough for the UK's most successful computer company – ACT.

The Group's financial record speaks for itself. Over a decade of increasing profits and turnover; a compound growth rate

of over 40%; consistent expansion without recourse to borrowings.

ACT – a public company with experience, stability and flair.

Today the Group's activities span all the facets of computerisation and office automation, research and development.

From its conception to

the completion of a purpose-built 50,000 square feet manufacturing plant at Glenrothes in Scotland's Silicon Glen, Apricot represents an investment of over £10 million.

This new plant is equipped with the very latest production technology and is capable of manufacturing a machine every minute.



Apricot – the technical highlights

Hardware Specifications

Multi-Processor architecture: Intel 8086 running at 5MHz

Intel 8089 i/o management

Intel 8087 Maths co-processor (optional)

Memory size: 256 Kbytes standard, expandable to 768 Kbytes

Mass storage options: (a) 1 x 3.5" Sony Microfloppy – 315 Kbytes

(b) 2 x 3.5" Sony MicroFloppies – 630 Kbytes

(c) 1 x 3.5" Sony double-sided MicroFloppy – 720 Kbytes

(d) 2 x 3.5" Sony double-sided MicroFloppies 1.44 MBytes

Communications: On-board modem with auto-dialler (optional)

1 x RS 232 (V-24) serial port – synchronous and asynchronous

1 x 8-bit bi-directional Centronics parallel port

Display screen: 9" green phosphor – P39 – with antiglare optical filter

80 characters x 25 lines or 132 characters x 50 lines

800 x 400 pixels

Keyboard display keys: 8 fixed function keys and 6 touch sensitive labelled by the MicroScreen

Alphanumeric layout to international standards

Dimensions:

Systems Box: 16.5" wide x 4" high x 12.5" deep

Monitor: 10.5" wide x 8.5" high x 10" deep

Keyboard: 16" wide x 2" high x 7" deep

Weight:

Systems Box: 14.2 lbs

Monitor: 9.1 lbs

Keyboard: 3.3 lbs

Apricot conforms to: DIN ergonomic standards, UL standards, CCA standards, VDE standards, FCC standards

Software Specifications

Operating systems: MS-DOS 2.0 (included with system)

CP/M-86, Concurrent CP/M-86 (included with system)

UCSD pSystem *1 BOS system *2

Systems software: Full utilities including character font generator, diskcopy routines, graphics kernel, keyboard table generator, etc.

Languages: Interpretive BASIC (included with system)

Personal BASIC (included with system)

Personal BASIC (included with system)

PASCAL FORTRAN COBOL UCSD PASCAL C PL/1

Inclusive applications: Asynchronous Communications Software

SuperCalc *3

SuperPlanner *3

*1 from TDI *2 from MPSSL *3 from SORCIM



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ACT reserve the right to change specifications without prior notice